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THE Art of Base Ball Fielding,



AND

BASE RUNNING.

ILLUSTRATED.

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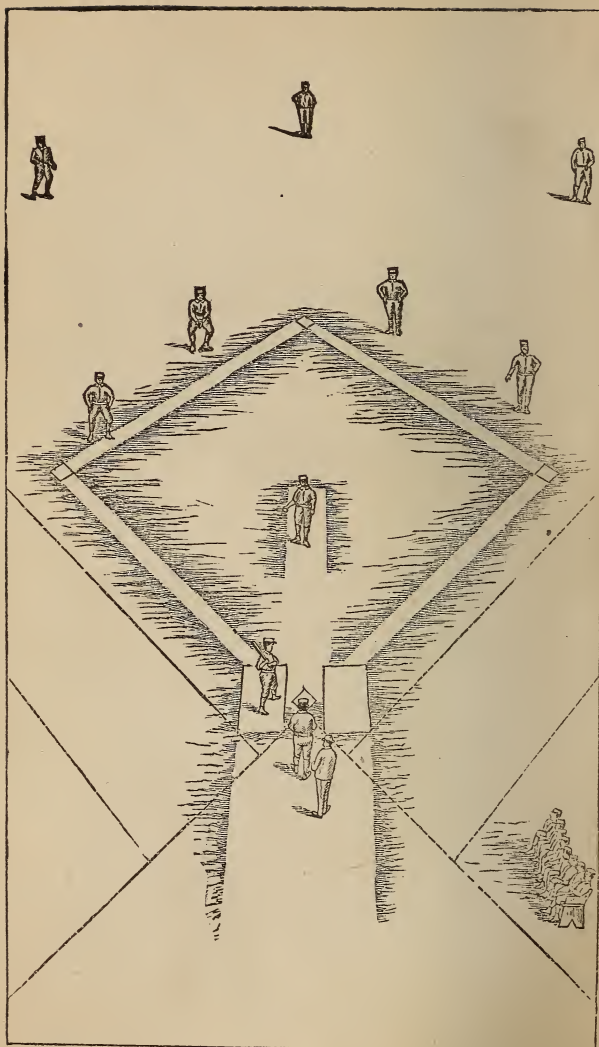
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BASE BALL FIELD.

THE ART OF FIELDING;

WITH A CHAPTER ON
BASE RUNNING.

CONTAINING

SPECIAL ARTICLES ON BATTERY WORK IN FIELDING. THE
PITCHER AND CATCHER AS FIELDERS. THE INFIELD.
FIRST-BASE PLAY. THE SECOND BASEMAN'S WORK.
THIRD BASE PLAY. SHORT FIELDING. THE OUT-
FIELDER'S WORK. BACKING-UP. THROWING
TO FIRST BASE. THE CAPTAIN OF THE
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BASE RUNNING;

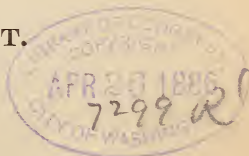
POINTS OF PLAY IN RUNNING BASES. THE RULES FOR
BASE RUNNING, ETC.

✓ BY
HENRY CHADWICK.

ILLUSTRATED BY
GEO. H. BENEDICT.

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A. G. SPALDING & BROS.,
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THE ART OF FIELDING.

Skillful fielding is by all odds the most attractive feature of the national game. It is something all can appreciate and understand. While scientific batting is only appreciable by those who fully understand the difficulties attendant upon it, fine play in the field can be enjoyed by every spectator, its beauties being as plainly apparent as is the characteristic blundering in the field of a mere novice in the art. In batting, however, while the great majority fully enjoy the dashing, splurgy, long-hit ball which yields a home run, it is only the minority who have sufficient knowledge of the "points" in the game to appreciate the scientific work of "facing for position," "timing the swing of the bat," "observing good form," and other like points in team-work at the bat. But in fielding, every one in the general crowd of spectators knows when a fine "pick-up" of a hot grounder is made; or when a hot "liner" is handsomely caught on the fly; or a short high ball is held after a long run in for it from the outer field; or when an apparently safe hit to right field is changed into an out at first base by the active fielding and quick accurate throwing in of the ball to the first baseman by the

right-fielder. Then, too, the brilliant catching of the swift curved line balls from the pitcher by the catcher, and the splendid throwing of the latter to the bases; all these features of sharp and skillful fielding are evidences of good work which the veriest novice in the crowd can understand and appreciate. Hence it is that fielding is at once the most brilliant and attractive feature of base-ball.

There is no department of the game, however, which requires more attention in the way of training to excel in it, than fielding does. A good fielder must be lithe of limb and with every muscle trained for active work in jumping, running, stooping, throwing, and, in fact, in every muscular movement which good practice in a gymnasium develops to advantage. In other words, a first-class fielder in base-ball must be a well-trained athlete. In no other field game of ball is fielding skill so essential to success as in the game of base-ball. In cricket a player may be valuable both as a bowler and batsman, and yet be but an indifferent fielder. In lacrosse, if the player is a swift sprint-runner his ability in other departments is regarded as of secondary importance; while, in football, daring pluck and wrestling powers are the most important elements in giving him the supremacy in the game. But in base ball, if the player fails to excel as a fielder his value as a member of the team depreciates fifty per cent. In fact, in no position in the game can a base ball player excel to an extent sufficient to make him useful unless he is fully

up to the required mark in fielding skill. Then, too, it should be borne in mind that it is fielding that is the chief element of success in winning games. Given a first rate "battery" in a team, and half its value is lost unless it be backed up by first-class fielding support. And the team may be noted for having two-thirds of the nine remarkably effective in handling the ash, and yet if they are below the mark in fielding skill nearly all the advantage they derive from their good batting will be lost. In every season's campaign in the professional championship arena, has the winning team taken the lead in fielding. This was especially noticeable in the League and American campaigns of 1884, the Providence and Metropolitan teams leading in the club fielding averages; while at the bat the Chicago team—fifth in the pennant race—led at the bat in the League campaign, and the Athletics—sixth in the championship contest—took the lead at the bat in the American. We have all along contended that it is fielding that wins matches in the long run, and a correct analysis of each season's play fully proves the fact.

FIELDING VS. BATTING.

To sum up our case of fielding vs. batting, we have to say that skill in fielding always has been and always will be the most attractive feature of base ball. One reason for this lies in the fact that to excel in fielding one must train for it; you cannot become an expert fielder except by practice. Besides this,

there are certain qualities a man must possess before he can go into field-training with any hope of attaining proficiency—he must be able to throw well, as regards both distance and accuracy; he requires pluck to face hard-hit balls; the judgment to know what to do with them when he fields them; the quickness of perception and the nerve to act promptly in critical emergencies; and the endurance to stand the fatigue of the work in the most important of the several field positions. Now, in batting, the veriest novice can with straight pitching hit a long ball to the outfield; all that is required is plenty of muscle and a good eye. Of course, practice will make him hit with more accuracy, but nevertheless he can hit the ball without practice; but no novice can go into the field and handle the ball properly. Here practice is needed before any degree of proficiency is reached, no matter how physically capable a man may be to excel in the field. As between batting and fielding, too, in which both the batsman and the fielder are practiced experts, there is far more attraction to the looker-on in seeing a fielder pick up a “hot grounder” handsomely, throw it accurately to the baseman, and to see it well held by the latter in time to put the base-runner out, than is possible from the mere act of hitting the ball to the field. The only attractive feature of batting, in reality, is when the batsman is faced by a strategic pitcher, and the former outwits the latter, and secures an unquestioned base-hit, despite the best of pitching and the sharpest of fielding.



A LOW CATCH.

But as this is rather exceptional work in batting, while sharp fielding is the general rule in the field, the fielding naturally presents the most attractions to those of the spectators who are capable of judging of the true merits of the game.

Fielding has made rapid strides toward perfection within the past decade, and especially within a year or two. There is more system about it than there used to be. Last year, for instance, saw more of that special element of success in fielding—good “backing-up”—exhibited, than ever before. There was more “playing for the side” in the fielding of 1884 than in any previous season’s work; and this important matter, too, is far more frequently seen in fielding than in batting. In batting, the rule is to play for one’s individual record, because playing for the side is more self-sacrificing in batting than in fielding. In fielding, you really help your record more by playing for the side than for a special record; hence, “playing for the side” is necessarily more practiced in handling the ball than in wielding the bat.

CHANGING POSITIONS IN FIELDING.

One of the greatest mistakes a player can make is to leave a position he has learned to excel in, in order to attempt to excel in another. It requires years of practice in base-play to become familiar with all the points of any one of the three positions—all three having their peculiar characteristics, differing materially from each other—and for a man who for years

has been playing in one position, and who, in that position, has got everything down to a spot, to go to another one and attempt to equal his play in the one he has left, is something one player out of a hundred cannot do. Certain men take to certain positions in the game of base ball naturally, as Creighton took to pitching; and some take to base-play more readily than to outfielding or catching or pitching, and when a man has found his place he is unwise to leave it to seek new laurels in another position.

There are three special departments of a base ball team, viz.: the "battery" players—the pitcher and catcher; the infielders, viz., the three basemen and the short-stop; and the outfielders, viz., the left, center and right fielders; and in commenting on the essentials of success required in each, and also on the points of play peculiar to each individual position, we shall begin with the "battery" players; and in referring to these players we shall only comment on that part of their duties directly connected with their fielding skill in their respective positions, those of the pitcher consisting of his ability to field and catch balls from the bat, and to throw them accurately to the bases; while those of the catcher are comprised in the success of his efforts, not only to do the same thing, but also in catching and stopping balls sent in to the bat by the pitcher.

BATTERY FIELDING.

THE PITCHER AS A FIELDER.

The first requisite of a pitcher, as regards his ability to excel in fielding in his position, is the possession of courage and pluck in facing hard hit balls from the bat which come direct to him. No pitcher can fully avail himself of his good judgment in strategic skill in pitching who has any fear in facing "hot" balls from the bat. At the same time he may possess the requisite courage to meet such hard hit balls and yet not be amenable to the charge of being afraid to face a hot fire of such balls, because he deems it wise at times to dodge some exceptionally hot liner, or other. What we refer to is, the courage which does not allow him to flinch from an endeavor to stop or catch the ordinary class of hard hit balls. The assistance a pitcher is credited with when the batsman strikes out has nothing to do with his regular fielding assistance; nor are the errors charged to him on "called" or wild pitched balls, anything to do with his direct fielding errors, the latter including only dropped fly balls, muffed or fumbled balls from the bat, and wide throws to basemen. The fielding points a pitcher is called upon to attend to includes his running to first base to hold the ball when the first baseman deems it necessary to field the ball himself and to throw it to the pitcher on the base. Also in the case of a "foul strike," a "foul" hit ball not caught on the fly a "dead" ball, or a base runner

put out for allowing a fair hit ball to strike him, and also in the case of a "block" ball, the pitcher must hold the ball while *standing within the lines of his position*, before the ball is regarded as in play; and therefore in all such cases he must, after fielding the ball, or after it has been thrown in to him, run to his position and stand within it ball in hand, before attempting to put an opponent out. Under the American code of rules the pitcher must avoid sending the ball in so close to the line of the batsman's position as to run the risk of hitting him, as his doing so leads to the batsman's taking his base on such ball striking his person whether it hits him solidly or not, provided the batsman makes due effort to avoid being hit without being obliged to leave his position. In the League code such hitting of the batsman by a ball sent in by the pitcher to the bat must be an *intentional* hit or no penalty can be inflicted. But such a hit is regarded as intentional if it could readily have been avoided by the pitcher. The pitcher, in both cases, must therefore see to it that in pitching wide of the base, either as a point of play or from inaccuracy of delivery, that he takes care to avoid pitching the ball over the line of the batsman's position, for this he has no right to do, and if done, and the batsman be hit in consequence, the Umpire must regard it as an intentional act. In running in to take high fly balls, whether balls which are likely to fall in front of the foul lines or directly behind them to the right or left of the catcher, the pitcher should be

sure of catching such balls or he should give way to the catcher or the nearest in fielder. Moreover, he should very seldom back far from his position toward second base in trying to catch a high fly ball as the chance of his making such a catch in comparison with that of some other one of the infielders is not good. Another point to play by the pitcher in fielding is always to bear in mind the existing situation of affairs in the in-field every time he pitches a ball, so as to be as prompt as possible in fielding the batted ball—whether picked up off the ground, taken on the bound, or caught on the fly—so as to throw it at once to the right position. Suppose, for instance, a runner is on second and but one man out, and the batsman sends the pitcher a hot bouncer, and the latter turns round to catch the runner from second napping, the point to play in this instance is, to drive back the runner—not forced off—to second by feints of throwing there, and yet be in time to throw the striking runner out. Should there be runners on first as well as second base when such a ball is hit, however, the pitcher then should not hesitate a moment, but promptly throw the ball to the third baseman so as to insure the “force off.” The correct thing in doing this is to be ready to do it the moment the ball is hit. Such readiness is the result of being fully aware beforehand as to what the exact situation is; if you are not fully aware of the position when the hit is made, the chances are that when you turn to look where to throw to, you will hesitate in your choice until too



A ONE HAND CATCH.

late to throw either one runner or the other out. The excellence of the point of play lies solely in the readiness of the pitcher to comprehend the exact situation of things when the hit is made.

Though it is the duty of the short-stop to act as a sort of tender to the pitcher, the latter should never depend entirely upon such assistance, but attend to the ball himself when there is any possible chance of hastening a play by it. It is far too rare a thing to see a pitcher doing double duty, as it were, by his quick movements in fielding infield balls himself which are not generally regarded as balls to be fielded by the pitcher. It is "pretty work" in a pitcher when he is unusually active in backing up the first and third base positions when ground balls are hit near either of the boundaries of those bases. And it is quite the reverse to see a pitcher stand within the lines of his position almost indifferent in his efforts to field balls which do not come direct to him. It is this which shows the difference—as far as fielding can show it—between the pitcher who goes in for team work and to "play for the side," and the pitcher who is merely playing for a record of assistance on strikes.

THE CATCHER AS A FIELDER.

Catching behind the bat has come to be almost as important a position as that of the pitcher himself. There is a wonderful contrast in the play of the catchers of the present day and the comparatively

simple work the catchers of the old times had to attend to in their positions. When one thinks of Charley De Bost's easy task in facing Stevens' pitching in the old Knickerbocker Club days of 1857; or of the catching of Gelston of the old Eagles from Bixby's pitching; or that of Ed. Brown of the Eckfords from Frank Pidgeon's delivery; or of the graceful Masten of the old Putnams, in catching for Tom Dakin; or of Boerum in attending to Mat. O'Brien's pitching; all these lights of the old fraternity "pale their ineffectual fires" before the splendid work of Ewing, Flint, Bennett, Gilligan, Hackett, and others of the League class of professionals, or of that of Milligan, Snyder, Holbert, Carroll and others of the American Association. To stand up close behind the bat and face the hot fire of a swift curve pitcher, even when the balls come within comparatively easy reach, is no small task; but to do this, and also be keen-sighted and active enough to catch the stray wide balls which come almost between the legs of the batsman, as it were, requires the most skillful play known to the position. When it is considered what the duties of a first-class catcher are under the present high standard of play, it is not to be wondered at that really "A. No. 1" catchers are at a premium. Some are noted for their pluck, nerve and skill in playing up close to the bat, and in taking those dangerous looking fly-tips; others for their agility and judgment in securing difficult foul balls; others, again, for their swift and accurate throwing to the bases; and still

others for their plucky endurance of punishment in supporting a wild delivery. But where is the catcher who combines in himself all these essentials of first-class play behind the bat? Echo answers: "Where?" In our book on "The Art of Pitching" we pointed out the absolute necessity of possessing control of temper in order to excel in the position. This essential is equally requisite in a catcher as in a pitcher. It is, we know, pretty trying for a catcher, while he is striving his best behind the bat, to find a pitcher venting his ill-humor on him because the pitching is being punished, or a chance for a difficult fly-tip happens to be missed; but to get vexed at this kind of thing only results in a catcher's weakening his play. Anger clouds the judgment, unstrings the nerves, and mars the sight; and, the moment a player loses control of his temper, away goes with it that presence of mind so necessary in playing base ball up to its highest standard.

Of the noted catchers of ten years ago the fine work done by White—Spalding's catcher in 1875—presented noteworthy features worthy of copying. His forte was his remarkable reticence and wonderful activity. He presented quite a model for catchers in his style of handling the ball—that is, in his method of making his hands a sort of spring-box, by which he lessens half the force of the blow in holding it from a swift delivery. His agility, too, was especially noteworthy. But what we admired about his play was his quiet, effective way of doing his work.

“Kicking” is something unknown to him. And just here in parenthesis let us say that there is one thing in which White stands pre-eminent, and that is that, in integrity of character, he is a model player. Not even the whisper of suspicion has ever been heard against “Jim White.” Herein lies as much of his value in a team as in his great skill as a player. This is a fact that club-managers thoroughly appreciate, as can be judged from the excellent selections made by the club-managers for 1885. It certainly inspires confidence to be able to insert in their circulars to the public a few remarks proving that “reputation is dear to players,” etc., but it is no more so than it should be; dollars, no matter how obtained, are of less value to players than reputation, and when this is apparent to the public they will accept the fact that all the skill a player possesses is put forth in every game.

A feature of first-class catching is a prompt and accurate return of the ball to the pitcher. This is as important for effective play as is a rapid delivery by the pitcher; we don't mean as regards pace, but in sending in balls in rapid succession, by which the batsman is obliged to be on the alert all the time, with but little opportunity afforded for leisurely judging the balls. Some catchers hold the ball, after receiving it from the pitcher, for some time, with a view of throwing it to a base, or being ready for that play. But the best plan is to promptly return it to the pitcher, unless a base runner has started to run on the actual delivery of the ball. We have seen many

a base stolen while the catcher has thus held the ball, apparently in readiness for a throw. A prompt return bothers a base runner, especially if the return throw is swift and accurate to the pitcher. But the main value of it is that it enables the pitcher to play his strong point of catching the batsman napping by a rapid return of straight balls when the batsman is not ready to strike. Spalding was the first to introduce this style of catching, in aid of his pitching, and he got many a strike out of it through White's quick returns.

There is one thing a catcher should not be held responsible for, and that is the costly consequences of a reckless delivery of the ball by a pitcher who lacks judicious control of temper. There is something outside the line of duty a catcher is called upon to perform. He may be required to support wild pitching, while he is removed from the responsibility of the errors immediately resulting from it; but he cannot be bound to support the reckless delivery of a bad-tempered pitcher. It is very easy to say that a catcher ought to be able to do this, that and the other, in his play behind the bat; but there is a limit to the work a first-class catcher should be held responsible for, and that limit does not include the errors plainly traceable to a reckless delivery.

The habit some catchers have of showing off their skill as swift throwers to bases is a bad one. All that is necessary to be done in the way of this throwing to bases when men are close to their base, is that of



A RUNNING CATCH.

showing the runners that you have good throwing at command, and that it will be necessary for them to take no risks. There is but one base a catcher can throw to with any degree of accuracy, and that is second base. There may be an exception to this rule, but it is rarely seen. Throwing to first base is the least advantageous throw made by a catcher, and throwing to third is next. Throwing to short-stop requires swift and accurate work and a quick return of the ball home, to be successful; and the short throws to second, to catch a player running home from third, is risky work, not one throw in four of this kind succeeding. As a general rule the catcher who confines his throwing to one position, viz., that of second base, will do far more work in catching base runners napping, than one who throws to all bases with the same frequency.

A vile habit which some catchers are prone to indulge in is that of growling at umpires and disputing their decisions, or ill-naturedly questioning their judgment. This is something a first-class catcher is never guilty of, his silent acquiescence in the decisions of umpires being a creditable feature of his play. Aside from the fact that it is illegal and unfair, it is the worst habit a catcher can indulge in, for growling only increases the prejudice of the umpire and confuses his judgment, and his errors are sure to tell against the grumbling catcher's side.

Some of the finest play behind the bat during 1884 was that shown in stopping and catching low, wide

balls. It is comparatively easy for a catcher to stand up close behind the bat and attend to the swift but accurate delivery of his pitcher; but the difficult part of his work lies in the activity and quickness of sight requisite in stopping low "side" balls.

BASE PLAY.

The three positions occupied by the first, second and third basemen require different qualifications to excel in them, though all need certain abilities alike. In all three positions opportunities are offered for distinct and local points of play. The duty of the first baseman is mainly to securely *hold* balls thrown to him while he has one foot touching the base; while that of the second baseman is chiefly to *touch* players as they run from first to second; the third baseman finding his principal work to consist of stopping hotly batted balls, catching high foul balls with a great twist given them by the bat, and in keeping players from running home, while trying at the same time to put strikers out running to first base.

But these things are but the foundation work of the occupants of the three positions. Base players are the defenders of the citadel of the field, and each and all of them require to be first-class men in regard to their activity and alertness of movement; their courage in facing and stopping hard-hit balls, and their ability to throw swiftly and accurately for the distances required in field work.

The first base can be best occupied by a left-handed player, as the hand most at command with such players faces the balls going close to the line of the base; while a left-handed player is decidedly out of place at either of the other infield positions. Of late seasons it has been the custom to cover the open gap between first and second bases by making the second baseman play at "right short;" but this has left a safe spot for sharp grounders close to second base, while it has also drawn round the short stop to second, and the third baseman to short-field to such an extent as to make hitting of ground balls near the line of third base a sure style of batting for earned bases.

Last season an element of weakness, in a majority of nines, prevailed in the form of "chin-music" and ill-natured "chaffing," in which base-players pretty generally took part. Joking is all very well in its way when it is indulged in good-naturedly, but when the so-called jokes are characterized by sarcastic allusions to a companion's weaknesses, or by irritating comments on your adversary's style of play, it becomes an evil which club managers should suppress. In some nines of the professional arena of 1884 one base player would not speak to another, while a third would comment ill-naturedly on every play made, good, bad, or indifferent. Indeed, a spirit of fault-finding prevailed more or less in every nine, and it had a very damaging effect on the general play of the nine in which it was permitted. While we would not care to see a nine play like a party of men devoid

of speech, there is a value in the rule of silence as far as "chaffing" or "chin-music," as it is called, is concerned, which should make it very generally enforced in the professional arena. Where, too, much talk is permitted there is sure to be bad play. Every player in a professional nine, and especially base players, should play his game *quietly*, to play it up to the best mark. The game needs all a man's wits in full force, and any talk, and especially anything in the way of fault-finding or ill-natured criticism, so bothers a player as to frequently lead him into errors of play he would not otherwise have committed.

FIRST BASE PLAY.

All basemen should be good ball catchers, but the occupant of the first base should specially excel in holding the swiftest thrown balls. He should, also, be fearless in facing hot balls from the bat, and expert in taking balls from the field, while holding one foot on the base. When a ball is hastily thrown to first base, his care should be to hold it, but at any rate to stop it. A good first base player ought to be able to hold a ball from the field, if it comes in anywhere within a radius of six feet from the base, and in case of high thrown balls he ought to take them at least eight feet high from the base. He must remember that the ball must be held by him—with some part of his person touching the base at the same time—*before* the striker reaches it, or the latter is not out; if the ball is held at the same time, the base runner

is not out. Some first base players have a habit of taking their feet off the base the moment the ball has been held, and this frequently leads them to do so before holding the ball, or so quickly as to look so to the umpire, and the result is, that the striker is declared not out. In receiving a ball from the field, the first baseman should stand on the base in such a manner as not to prevent the runner from reaching his base, as the umpire is justified in regarding any obstruction of the kind by the base player as intentional, if it could readily have been avoided, though the baseman may not have intended to obstruct his opponent, or prevent him from making his base except by legitimate means. In taking his position in the field, he should stand about twenty or thirty feet from the base toward the right field, and between the first and second bases, until the ball has been hit, when he should at once take his position with one foot on the first base, ready to receive the ball from the field. In taking his position for fielding, he will, of course, be guided by the style of batting opposed to him, standing further out in the field or closer to the base, according to the balls the batsman is in the habit of hitting. He should keep his eyes open for chances in points of play, especially when players are forced to vacate bases. Thus, for instance, suppose there is a player on the first base when a ball is struck to the pitcher and it is held by him on the bound, should the pitcher forget to pass the ball to second base and send it to first base instead—the runner



A HIGH CATCH.

standing on the base in the *interim* instead of running to the second base—the point of play for the baseman would be to take the ball from the pitcher while off the first base, and first touching the player standing on the base, put his foot on the base with ball in hand, thereby making a double play; for though the base runner was on the base when touched, he had no legal right to be there, inasmuch as the batsman, not being put out, forced the base runner to leave the base, and he—the base runner—had no title to the first base until the batsman was put out. Had the baseman, in the above instance, touched the base first, with ball in hand, and then touched the player on it, the latter would not have been out, as, the moment the striker was put out the base runner ceased to be forced to leave the base. Similar points to this can frequently be made when a player is on the first base and the batsman hits a high ball, as the former, in case the ball is caught, has to return to first base, and in case it is missed is forced to leave for the second base, and is, therefore, very likely to be put out there. When an overthrown ball to first base is stopped by the crowd in any way—accidentally or intentionally—he must first throw it to the pitcher's position before he can use it to put a player out; and he should also remember that no ball hit by the batsman on which a balk has been called, can put the striker out no matter if held on the base in time, or caught on the fly, or on a foul bound.

The first baseman requires to be well posted as to

how far it will be safe for him to leave his base to field a slow rolling ball, which does not go within the fair reach of either the pitcher or second baseman. In regard to this point, it is known that there is a certain kind of ball just hit quietly along the ground to the center of a triangle formed by the positions of the pitcher, first baseman and second baseman at right short field, which almost invariably gives first base to an active runner, simply because it is a ball which tempts the first base player to try and field it himself, and all but old hands get trapped by it. Last season we saw several first base players try to field such short balls, and in nearly every case they failed. First-class basemen judge these balls admirably, and such leave them to the pitcher or second baseman to field to them unless they happen to come within a certain distance which the baseman knows he can get to and back before the batsman can travel from home to first. It is worthy of remark that these short hit balls are entitled to an earned base, no matter how poor the hit may look. No hit, be it remembered, is a "poor one" which allows the batsman a fair chance to earn his first base, while no matter how showy a hit may be, if it affords a chance for a catch, at the hands of a sharp and active fielder, it is a "poor hit."

THE SECOND BASEMAN'S POSITION.

We now come to the second baseman's position, and as far as base playing is concerned, it is one of

the most important positions in the game. In fact, there is no position in the infield which requires more judgment in its occupant than does that of the second base. The first baseman is, in a measure, limited in his sphere of operations, and so is the third baseman to a less extent. But the second baseman has the whole of the middle infield to cover, and b a lack of judgment he can readily give base after base to his opponents. The fact is, it requires a man of more tact and skill to fill this position than it does that of almost any other on the field, excepting, of course, the pitcher. Out-fielders have only to attend to their duties in catching and throwing, and the other basemen in special duties like that of the first baseman in holding balls thrown simply to him, and that of the third baseman in looking out for high foul balls. But the second baseman has to be equally expert in holding swiftly-thrown balls, and in looking out for high fly-balls, while he has, in addition, to be very quick in putting a ball on a baseman, and as active in backing up as the short-stop is required to be; and he has especially to be sharp in judging of a batsman's peculiar style of hitting, so as to be on the lookout to stop hot grounders passing near his base, or to catch high balls over the heads of the in-fielders intended to be safe hits. He is required, also, to cover second base and to play "right short stop," but his position in the field must be governed entirely by the character of the batting he is called upon to face. If a hard hitter comes to the bat, and swift balls are

being sent in, he should play well out in the field, between right field and second base, and be on the *qui vive* for long bound balls or high fly balls, which drop between the out-field and the second base line. When the batsman makes his first base the second baseman comes up and gets near his base in readiness to receive the ball from the catcher. He should remember that in a majority of cases his duty is to touch the base runner, and this it would be well to do in all cases when the latter is found off his base. The habit of touching base runners is a good one to get into, as there is then no likelihood of its being forgotten when it becomes necessary for a player to be touched. When the first baseman runs after the ball hit by the striker, the second baseman should at once make for the first base, as he is generally nearer to it than either the short stop or pitcher when balls are being hit between first and second bases. In timing for a throw to first base he should be sure of his aim, or, if in doubt, he should let the base be made, or otherwise the chances are that an overthrow will give his opponent his third instead of his first base. Hasty throwing is poor policy except the basemen are pretty sure in sending in a swift line ball, and there is a good man at first base to hold it. When a player is on the first base, and another on the third, the second baseman should be on the watch, so as to make a prompt return of the ball when the catcher throws to the second, and the man on the third attempts to run home on the throw.

There is ample time for a ball to be thrown from home to second and back to put out a player running home, if the throwing is accurate and swift, and the catching sure.

It must be borne in mind by players that a player, running from home to first base, is allowed to over-run his base without running the risk of being put out, provided he promptly returns to the base after over-running it; but should he attempt to make his second after over-running, then he loses his privilege of returning. The rule is confined to the first base, but it should be applied to all.

Second base playing now requires the player to be not only a base player *per se*, but a right short stop in addition, he having to play in both positions. As a base player he must not only be able to hold a ball thrown to him "hot" from "home" in good style, but he must be quick in his motions in putting it on the player running to the base. In fact, he should not only hold it as the first-base player does, but combine with the sure hold of the ball the activity in touching players required in the position. Then, too, he must be able to cover all the ground at "right short," as well as close around his own base, and to do this well he ought to possess the requisite "head-work" to be able to judge of the hits by the pitcher's delivery, and by the style in which the batsman "faces" or "forms" for striking. In fact, the second baseman must be one of the most active of in-fielders, and a very accurate thrower for short distances,

besides requiring to be a man who can use his judgment to aid him.

THIRD BASE PLAY.

The most difficult of the positions on the bases to play well is that of third base, and of late years it has become more than ordinarily important from the introduction of the scientific style of batting, which aims only to secure first base easily—a phase of this batting being sharp ground hits along the foul line which the third baseman has especially to attend to. In fact, what with the high twisting balls sent foul from the bat toward third base, and the hot grounders, which are so difficult to pick up and throw quickly and accurately enough to first base, the third baseman requires to be a fielder of more than ordinary ability, and one possessing considerable judgment. It won't do for a third baseman to take up a regular position every time he goes to the field, for the batting now in vogue requires him to change his place more frequently even than at second base. In one and the same inning he will be required to play between third and home bases and ten feet inside of the foul ball line to cover short ground balls, while another batsman may oblige him to act almost as short stop, and another force him well back into the field for high fouls. Then, too, he has to watch his base very closely when players are running their bases, as he has to take throws from the catcher and pitcher, as well as from the other in-field players.

To stop a long hot grounder sent close to third base and to throw over in time to first base requires the most skillful of fielding, a combination of the brilliant "pick-ups" of Denney or Williamson, and the speed and accuracy of Sutton's throwing. The third baseman, too, has considerable work to do in running after high foul balls out of reach of the catcher.

When Ferguson filled the third baseman's position in the Atlantic nine about a dozen years ago he did some model fielding there. The style in which he picked up hot ground balls excelled anything ever before seen on a ball-field, no one approaching him in this respect. His quick throwing, too, was noteworthy; also his sure catching of fly balls. His excellence in picking up difficult grounders had been attained by practice in hand-ball playing; and club managers will find that practice in the hand-ball courts will be more effective in training their players than any gymnasium work can be; for it trains to the endurance of fatigue, makes a man specially active, toughens the hands, and trains a ball player to field the most difficult of ground balls, besides educating his sight in fielding balls better than any thing else can do.

The importance of the third base position lies in the fact that on the play of the third-baseman, and on his sharp fielding of difficult balls, will frequently depend the loss of runs to his opponents, when the failures on the other bases are only made at the cost of a single base. In the case of a miss-play at third



A HIGH FLY.

base, however, one or more runs scored is generally the result, that is, in cases where players are running their bases. When no men are on the bases the third baseman will have to be active in fielding the ball, and quick and accurate in throwing it, in order to prevent the striker from making his base. The third baseman takes a position closer to his base than either of the other basemen. Sometimes, however, he takes the place of the short stop when the latter covers the second base in cases where the second baseman plays at right short for a right-field hitter. In throwing from base to base hastily, take care that you throw low, rather than high, as a low ball can be stopped if not handled, whereas a ball overhead gives a run in nearly every instance. In fact, as a general thing, it is safer to allow a player to make one base than to run the risk of helping him to two or three bases by an overthrow. Accurate throwing from base to base is a pretty feature of the game, and with straight throwers and sure catchers can be safely indulged in at all times, for though a player may not be put out by a throw, when he sees the ball thrown straight and handed prettily, it makes him hug his bases closer.

Your earnest, reliable base player when he goes into a match, or even a practice game, plays ball from the word "Go" until the contest is ended. He plays to win, but only to win fairly and manfully, and not like a tricky knave. He never plays to show off, never puts on airs, or plays one time earnestly and

another time lazily or indifferently, as too many do, but he works like a beaver at all times, and that is the way to play ball.

THE SHORT STOP'S POSITION.

Of late years the position of short stop has almost become the key to the infield. The time was when the short fielder was regarded simply in the light of a waiter on the pitcher. In the old Hoboken days short stops were at one time thought to be rather in the way in the infield than otherwise; but when Johnny Grum, Dicky Pearce, Charley Thomas and other noteworthy occupants of that position, some twenty odd years ago, began to develop the resources of the short stop, and to practically illustrate the points of the position, there was quite a change of opinion on the subject. Since then short fielding has become the strongest force of the attacking power in the infield outside of the pitcher's position. The reason is that the short fielder occupies the position of a sort of rover. Unlike the base players, though he has a fixed position in one respect—standing as he does in the field midway between third baseman and second baseman—his duty is to occupy the position of all three of the basemen when occasion requires. Moreover, he is the general backer-up of all the infielders. No short stop who does not excel in this special feature of his position is fit to occupy it. In addition, it is necessary that the short fielder should be a man of quick perception, prompt to judge of a

situation, to take in all the points of the position at a glance, and to be able to act quickly and with decision. A peculiarity of short field play is that too often the reputation of a short stop is made or marred by the character of the play of the first baseman. We know of several short stops in years gone by whose success in playing their position was largely due to the effective support given them by their first baseman. The short fielder has many a ball come to him which is hard to stop and pick up so as to throw it in time to a base, that, unless the baseman happens to be a player who can pick up a sharply thrown bounding ball, or reach out and securely hold a wide side thrown ball, or jump up and capture a high thrown ball, the play of the short fielder is sure to suffer. On such occasions, when hard hit balls are well stopped by the short fielder, and he scarcely has time to get them in hand to throw accurately, unless he is sure of his baseman, the hit yields an earned base. Hence the importance of having first basemen in position who can not only do what ordinary first basemen are called upon to do, viz., stop hard thrown and straight balls, but who are able to shine in their position by stopping—if they cannot always field them—wide-thrown balls. The majority of the crowd of spectators cannot see how wide or bad a throw is made to first or second bases from short field, but they can see whether it be held or not; and when the ball is held the most of the credit of the out is given to the short stop for his

assistance, when, in fact, but for the fine playing of the baseman in holding the wide or low thrown balls, the runner would have secured his base. The beauty of George Wright's throwing to first base was his accuracy of aim; knowing his own power of swift throwing, he would wait until sure of his aim, and then let the ball go like a rifle-shot. He has had many imitators in swift throwing to the bases, but very few in the accuracy of his aim, and it was in that particular that he so greatly excelled. A swift thrower from short field, even when supported by a first-class first baseman, is a costly player as a general thing. He likes to show off his speed too much, and forgets too often the cost of the exhibition. The short fielder requires to be in full accord with the pitcher in regard to being familiar with the latter's special points of strategic play, so that he may duly prepare either to stand in closer or out further than usual. He should also be able to understand signals from the catcher, in order that the latter player, in throwing to second base, should be posted as to which man to throw to—second baseman or short stop. Thus, for instance, if a player be on first base, ready to run to second, and he should see the second baseman ready to receive a ball, he will hesitate to run; but should he see the baseman standing at "right short," leaving the second base apparently unprotected, he will run the risk of attempting to make the base. In this case the short-field should be able to signal the catcher that he is ready for the point, and

at the same time that the catcher prepares to throw the ball to the base the short stop should be there to receive it, the latter starting to run from short to second just as the base runner starts to run from first to second. We merely refer to this point in order to illustrate the character of fielding an effective short stop is called upon constantly to attend to. He should always be in motion while the ball is in play in the field, first in watching balls that are sent to his own position, secondly in backing up the third base, and lastly in playing the second baseman's position, or in supporting the pitcher, to which player he should be a sort of special attendant, in order to save him as much work as he can. Moreover, the short stop requires to be an exceedingly swift and accurate thrower, as of all positions wild throwing from short field is the most costly. He should also be a very sure catch, especially in judging of those difficult high balls which almost belong to the outfielder's position to take. The short field is especially adapted for an active fielder of short stature, as they can more readily attend to those short, sharp grounders which form the majority of balls to the short stop's position, and which are generally so difficult for a tall or heavily-built man to attend to.

The short stop should be constantly on the alert; quick in his movements, active of foot, a quick and straight thrower at short distances, and especially a man of good judgment, so as to know when to throw and when not to throw after fielding a ball. There



A SWIFT LINER.

was some very poor play shown by short stops last season, in the way of ill-judged throws. Some would throw hastily and swiftly, after failing to pick up a ball neatly, and thereby would add a wild throw to their fielding error. Others, again, would pick up a ball prettily and then be so deliberate in throwing—depending too much upon their speed—that when the ball did go to the first base it was too “hot” or too “wide” to be held. A short stop should be ready to run up and field a short hit between pitcher and third, or to run out and take a high fly short of the left field. The short stop has the best and the most chances given him for double plays on dropped fly balls, but it is not an easy thing to do. It will no longer do to catch the ball and then drop it, the point of play now being to let it go to the ground and then field it at once, covering the ball as it drops. The best-played “point” in this respect we ever saw at the hands of a short stop was that played by George Wright on McDonald and Pearce in the first Atlantic and Red Stocking match of 1870. It occurred in the tenth inning of the game, after the Atlantics had retired the Reds for a blank score, and, with the figures at 5 to 5, had two men on the bases, with but one hand out, and just one run to get to win. McDonald was at second base and Pearce at first, with Smith at the bat. One good hit would have sent McDonald home and have won the game. First came a foul ball out of reach, and then Charley popped up a high ball, which George Wright pre-

pared himself to take, and Pearce, seeing the almost certainty of the catch, held his base, as did McDonald, George Wright being careful to avoid any movement likely to indicate the point he intended to play. Suddenly, however, as the ball fell, George dropped into a stooping position, placed his hands flat to receive the ball near the ground, and the result was the ball bounded out of his hands on to the ground. It was picked up sharply, sent like a rifle shot to third base, where Waterman stood ready to hold it—thereby putting out McDonald, forced off from second; and by Waterman the ball was promptly sent to Sweasy, putting out Pearce, forced off from first. The result of this well played point was the retirement of the Atlantics for a blank score. The plan of holding out the palms of the hands flat so as to allow the ball to bound dead out of the hands, and with the twist taken out of it before reaching the ground, is the best way of playing this point. Another way is to let the ball bound and smother it as it rises. It won't do to catch the ball and then drop it, as that amounts to a "momentarily" holding of the ball and consequently a catch.

A great many errors in fielding—or rather in failing to field—sharply hit ground balls, were charged to short stops last season for which they were not responsible. It is not generally understood that when the ball has a strong bias or twist imparted to it by the pitcher, and when it is sharply hit to the ground, it will diverge from the direct line of progress the

moment it strikes the ground, and in such a way as entirely to deceive the fielder, who is prepared for the regular rebound only, and not to find the ball rebounding to the right or left and with unusual speed. These failures to stop ground balls are not errors, as they cannot be provided for by the most expert fielding.

Cool judgment in critical points of a game should be a feature of first-class short fielding. This was a merit of Dick Pearce's play in the old days, as was his sound judgment in all the strategical points. In emergencies and critical positions of a contest no other man was so cool and collected as Pearce. It was this very thing which really won the game for the old Atlantic nine in their second contest in 1860 with the Excelsiors, when the players on both sides, as well as the umpire, became befogged about a point of play in running the bases—a point which Pearce alone saw and explained—the result being two men and side out for the Excelsiors, and their demoralization when they had the game in their hands. In this respect Dick excelled all the other short stops of his day.

SHORT FIELDING.

More opportunities are afforded the short fielder for playing strategic points in putting out base runners than are presented to any other occupant of the infield. He has greater supervision over the infield

than any other player, and he combines in his position the double office of short stop and base player, being called upon to play both second and third bases, in emergencies, quite frequently. He is also the general backer-up of the infield. For this reason the short stop requires to be a player very quick to judge of points in strategic play, and to be perfectly familiar with every rule of the game, besides being cool and nervy in exciting periods of a contest. To illustrate: Suppose all three of the bases are occupied in the last inning of a game, with but one man out, but one run to get, and a hard hit ball is sent direct to the short stop; though a good fielder might be able to stop the ball well enough, such a player, lacking nerve and presence of mind for prompt action, or the judgment to decide quickly what was best to be done, would commit some error or other in throwing the ball which would allow the winning run to be scored, and yet neither muff the ball in fielding it, or throw it to the base wildly.

It is worthy of remark, as something which once upon a time had to be referred to, that it is in the short stop's position that honesty tells, for it is in cases of this kind that chances to hide a crooked piece of play are offered. To fumble a hard-hit ground ball, to make a feint to throw it to a base to put a runner out, and then throw it just too late to catch the striker at first base; or to throw it home so swiftly as to render it impossible for the catcher to stop it in time, are plays which may be legitimate errors, and yet may

be intentional misplays. It all depends upon what the character of the short stop is.

A word about the recording of short stop's errors: As a rule scorers were too hard on short stops' last season in the way of charging them with errors. We saw some scorers charge short stops with errors when they failed to stop a hard hit ground ball well enough to pick it up and throw it in time to the base. To stop a hard hit grounder, even if the ball be not sent to the base in time, is a good play, and no error. If it is sent to the base in time, it is a splendid piece of fielding. Frequently hard hit balls from curved line pitching, when they strike the infield in front of the short stop, diverge on the rebound at a tangent, and thus escape capture. This, too, was frequently charged as an error when a base hit should have been credited. There is altogether too great a tendency to charge errors to fielders—to short stops in particular—in cases where hard hit ground balls are not stopped in time. It is difficult to do it even on a smooth, velvety turf like that of the infield of the old Union Grounds of years ago, and almost impossible on a rough or uneven infield, like that of the majority of ball fields.

The play in a game when the bases are occupied by runners is frequently marred by the failure of the short stop to back up basemen to whom the catcher or pitcher throws. There should always be an understanding between the short stop and both pitcher and catcher in regard to the

special conditions which will occasion either to make throws to the basemen, so that the short stop might always be on the *qui vive* to back up well. There was a tendency shown by some short stops last season to indulge in showy, swift throwing, as also in somewhat careless, slow throwing. A ball would be batted hard to the short stop, but still so as to enable him to pick it up in time, and when he had done this well he would take his time in throwing, and then send it in hot to the baseman, when a slower throw would have answered the purpose better had he thrown it as soon as he had fielded it. This was often done to "show off" in fast throwing, and of course, at the risk of the ball not being held in time. When a ball is hit to short stop so as to make it difficult to stop and field in time for the throw, then a swift throw is justifiable. But this throwing fast when the fielder has time for a moderate and more accurate throw, is not "good form" in short field work. Neither is the slow toss of the ball to the baseman, when the ball from the bat is one which gives the short stop ample time to throw it to the baseman. The habit of play in throwing should be straight-line throwing, with moderate but timely speed, leaving very swift throwing to special emergencies, when the critical period of a contest may excuse some extra risk being incurred. There was considerable throwing done from short field last season which may be classed as bad throwing, from the fact that it was not a point to throw the ball at all.

It is in this respect that the record of errors comes in with objectionable effect. There are numerous times in the course of a match when it is better play to hold a ground ball from the bat instead of throwing it to the base. These instances occur when there is no runner on a base, or only one on first base, and the ball hit to the short stop is a difficult one to pick up. Too frequently in such cases the fielder will try to escape the result of a "juggle" or "fumble" of the ball by a hasty throw, and generally at the cost of a double error in the form of either a wild throw or a failure to hold the ball by the base player. Better to abide by the one error and escape the double one by holding the ball and keeping the runners from getting extra bases. As regards the short stop acting as temporary second baseman, except when a ball is hit to right short and a runner is on first and is forced, it depends upon the peculiar style of batting of the man at the bat as to whether short stop plays as second baseman or not. Ordinarily, with a right hand batsman at the bat, the short stop will play in his own position. But when he sees the batsman "facing" for a right field hit, he should move down to cover second base, leaving the second baseman to go to right short. The same course should be pursued, too, when left-handed men come to the bat. Under the circumstances of the marked increase in right field batting of late years, and of the introduction of batting quartets of left-handed hard hitters the necessity for the short stop being able to be a good second base

player, becomes very apparent. A point played last season with good effect at times was that of the catcher throwing to short stop when a runner was on third, and another ran down from first to second to get the man on third home. This was not done in the old style of throwing to short stop's position, but in throwing a little to the left of second base, the short stop jumping forward and taking the ball and promptly returning it to the catcher in time. When the ball is swiftly thrown and accurately returned, the play invariably yields an out; but it must be understood by signal to be done effectually. There was one thing in short field play which was not always attended to properly last season, and that was the want of habits of play in throwing to each base according to regular rule. Unless a short stop plays by regular rule, habitually making the proper throw at the proper time, he is apt to get confused when left to judge a throw in a second of time. When two men are out, the short stop should disregard all temptation to throw a fielded ground ball anywhere but to the first baseman. When a runner is on first, too, such a fielded ball should be sent to second base habitually, except in the case of two men being out. Plays of this kind should be done by rule, and so habitually that the play becomes natural to the fielder, and he does it by instinct, as it were. In such cases, balls which come to him hard to field in time will reach the baseman sooner than they would if he were not habituated to certain rules of play. We have seen

some splendid short fielding in our day, but there is still room for more points and even better play than any yet exhibited.

THE OUT FIELD POSITIONS.

Quite a change has taken place within the past few years in reference to the importance of each position in the outfield. Twenty years ago the left field position was regarded as the position. That was in the days of the ten-inch-round, two-and-a-half rubber ball, and when the so-called "splendid hits" to left field were regarded as the feature of the game, and fielding skill was considered of secondary importance. Now the most difficult work is done in the right field, and the old-time features of outfielding, the catching of long fly balls, has been superseded by brilliant instances of assistance in putting out players on bases by quick and accurate throwing in of balls, from the outfield positions. To one accustomed to see the headwork play of skillful outfielders of the present day, the old-time method would appear laughable. The old outfielder—even after the days of the bound-catch of fair balls—seldom deemed it worth his while to leave his position to go after a ball flying to any other position in the outfield. Playing for the side was then unknown, except in the instance of the old Atlantic nine, and also the Excelsior nine in 1860. In those days—and some players practice the same thing now—an outfielder thought he did his work well if he caught the fly-

ball that came to him, without troubling himself to run far to get it. Anything like an assistance in putting out players on bases from balls thrown in from the outfield was comparatively rare play, except that now and then an effort was made to put out players trying to make home runs. All this has been changed. During 1884 some of the prettiest outfield work that was done was in making brilliant plays in doubling up base runners from quick returns of base-hit balls to the outfield, and from double plays from well-taken fly balls, not to mention the many instances of sharp fielding in assistance rendered from right field in putting out strikers before they reached first base. Of course there are instances in which much of the importance of an outfield position is derived from the peculiar character of the ground. As a general thing, however, the three positions are pretty equal in their call for service from players, though, if anything, the right field has the preference, as being the place to put the best outfielder of the three.

An important effect of sharp outfield play in the quick return in of fielded balls, is that of bothering base runners. Any experienced base runner knows very well that in four cases out of five he can tell whether a long-hit ball from the bat is going to be held or not by this or that outfielder; and in this knowledge he makes his estimate of how many bases he can make on his hit. If the hit is a high one, falling a little short of the outfielder's position, so as

to oblige him to run in for the ball, and he knows his fielder well, he goes for the second or third on the hit, sure. But in the case of outfielders like Hornung, Hines or Evans it is difficult to tell when a ball is safe or not, if hit high in the air, and hence fewer bases are risked in running when such skillful outfielders are seen going after a ball than is done in the case of ordinary outfielders, not so remarkably long-reached nor active. It is in this special point of play that great activity, backed up by headwork, comes in with such telling effect in outfield positions.

The substitution of a comparatively dead ball in the game, compared to the old lively rubber filled ball of years past, has had the effect of materially changing the character of outfield play, and of giving more importance to the playing of the outfield positions. When the old rubber ball was in use and heavy hitting to the outfield was the rule, all the outfielders had to do was to stand out as far as they could, catch the ball and throw it in promptly; no opportunities were afforded them then for judging of a batsman's play, as it was all chance hitting, each going in to hit the ball as hard as he could, and with no idea as to which part of the field the ball would be likely to go. Since the dead ball has been in use, however, outfielders have been allowed opportunities for "headwork" in judging of the style of batting by their opponents, and of playing their positions accordingly. For this reason in choosing outfielders for first-class professional nines, something more than

the mere ability of the fielder to catch the ball and throw it in a long distance must be considered, and that something is the judgment of the fielder in being able to play the strategical points of his position, and to do something more than to merely stand out in the field and catch a ball that comes to him, or to run after one and throw it in a hundred yards. We have seen outfielders not only watch carefully every private signal of the pitcher, but also judge for themselves in the matter of the style of the batsman's play, and to get in closer, stand out further, get nearer to the foul ball lines, or to move more to the left or right as the style of hitting appears to require, thereby showing their ability to play the strategical points of their positions. In the case of using an elastic ball, any man who is a safe catcher and a long distance thrower will do to play in the outfield against lively ball batting; but in the case of the use of a dead ball, with its accompaniment of scientific batting, outfielders must be men who can use their heads as well as their hands, or the positions will not be efficiently played.

Outfielders should never stand still or occupy one position all the time, but be ever on the move, ready for a quick run, or to back up each other. They should never hold a ball a minute, but promptly return it to the infield as soon as handled. In thus returning the ball they should invariably send it in to the second baseman, unless some other fielder is designated on call by the captain. But in the case of

a fly catch in the outer field, when bases are being run, the outfielder should, of course, throw to the base player the base runner is returning to. The outfield is the place for the change pitcher of the nine to occupy. All three of the outfielders should watch the movements of the pitcher and batsman closely, so as to be ready to judge the ball likely to be hit to them. When a good batsman is at the home base they can get in closer than when a home-run hitter handles the ash. When the outfielders see that foul balls are being hit frequently, they should get up near the foul ball line. It is easier to run in for a short ball than to back out for a high one, and therefore they should not stand in too close, though going out too far is worse still. No outfielder should stand still simply because the ball does not happen to come in his direction. Activity and judgment in being prompt in support is characteristic of first-class play in the out as well as in the infield. With the comparatively dead ball now in use outfielders will do well to stand in closer than hitherto. It is better to let a long ball go over your head now and then than to miss the chance of taking short high balls on the fly, which are sent just over the heads of the infielders. Where one long ball is hit five short ones are sent to the outer field.

In regard to running in for a catch, it is always better to stop and be sure of fielding the ball than to continue to run in in the hope of catching it in brilliant style, only to find yourself overrunning the ball,

and thereby letting your adversary secure an extra base or an unearned run. Such a thing as a double play from an outfield catch used to be very rare; and putting out a player at first base from a throw in from right field, was a feat almost unknown. Now an outfielder does not play up to his mark unless he frequently makes such plays during a season's campaign.

No one would suppose that after sixteen years of regular professional playing, and of even a longer experience than that in the training of professional nines, any outfielder would be found playing his position as if he were a mere ornamental figure in the team, and only played in one particular position to attend to particular balls which happened to come directly to where he was standing. But yet several such players were seen in the outfield teams of a few professional nines last season. That is, they played their position as if they had only a limited portion of ground to cover, and therefore had no occasion to get out of their special locality to field balls sent to the positions of other out-fielders. "What d' yer blame me for? It wan't my ball; it was the center-fielder's ball." This was the tenor of many of the explanations made by this class of outfielders last season, when they were called upon to answer the charge of making an error in not properly attending to their duties. The great point in outfielding is to send each man into the position to play as if he were the only outfielder present to cover the whole outfield. The idea that a left fielder has only to attend to left

field balls and a right fielder to those sent to right field, is an exploded rule of the old amateur days. What the short fielder is to the basemen in the infield in giving them support by judicious backing-up, so should each of the three outfielders be to one another. The moment a long high ball, or a hard-hit liner, or a hopping ball is hit to the outfield, that moment every one of the three outfielders should be on the alert to catch it, stop it, or to field it when it happens to be missed or fumbled by the fielder to whose particular position the ball is sent. Of course it should be plainly understood beforehand as to who is to attend to the high fly ball when it comes, so as to avoid a dangerous collision, and the dropping of the ball between two hesitating fielders. In all other instances, too, no proper outfielding is done unless it is seen that all three fielders are in motion after the ball, hit to any part of the outfield. Here is an instance of how this thing works: In a match last season a long high ball was hit to the left fielder's position. The moment the ball was seen flying to the outfield all three of the fielders were on the move after it. The left fielder backed down in running to catch it; the center fielder ran down near him, to be ready to field it in case of a drop, and the right fielder ran up toward the infield to be ready to forward the ball in on a sharp, quick throw toward infield. A splendid catch was made by the left fielder, and he had time for a long throw in to third base; but the point we wish to show is that of

the prompt assistance afforded by the other two outfielders working together as a team, which the three outfielders should be taught to do in all first-class nines. But this particular branch of the system of "playing for the side" is never seen where your outfielders are composed of men playing for a record. Your record man seldom troubles himself about balls out of his district; and if, being a left fielder, he sees a ball sent flying to right field, he just folds his arms and becomes a mere looker-on, even if he does not inwardly hope to see a rival fielder make a muff, by means of which his own record will be benefited; whether that be done at the cost of the team at large, and perhaps that of the game itself, does not affect him—his sole consideration being his record; and if this is kept all right by his leading his two companions at center and right fields, everything else is of little consequence. Nowadays catching high fly balls, hit by miffing batsmen to the outfield in their silly efforts for home run applause, is one of the least things an outfielder has to do. And, moreover, it is possible that an outfielder who has made an average of but one catch to a match, may have done more real service to his side, by splendid fielding support in backing up and assisting the two other fielders, than he whose record in the average figures is at the top. Harry Wright, when at center field in the early days of the Boston nine, used to show the outfield business, done upon the principle of playing for the side, in fine style. He always led in assistance from

his position, and in backing up. Harry got at balls at center field that few outfielders ever trouble themselves to go for; he knew where to lay for most hitters—a great point in outbelding. Some splendid work in making difficult catches was done in the outfield last season, and also in throwing balls in accurately and in time. And, by the way, this throwing-in business is something which offers a field for improvement. Your long-throwers are just as fond of throwing balls in from the outfield for the sake of the throw, as fast throwers in the infield are in throwing fast to first base. Throwing home to the catcher from the outfield is a very nice thing to do, and it is important that it be done well if attempted at all, as overthrows from this quarter are damaging, in that they invariably yield runs instead of merely bases. It is no easy matter for an outfielder, after concentrating his mind on the effort to catch a difficult fly-ball—to turn suddenly and grasp the idea of the position in the infield quickly enough to know to what point to throw. In such cases a throw home is generally resorted to, and in three cases out of five an overthrow is the result. The rule for outfield throwing should be—*when in doubt, throw into short field*. The best outfield of the League teams of 1884 was that of the Providence nine, and yet they did not play up to the mark as a team that the three positions admit of. In fact, there is considerable room for improvement in outfield team-playing. One reason is, that to a certain extent team-playing in the outfield is self-sacri-

ficing work, as far as the average record is concerned. When the fielding averages are made up from data which cover the whole ground, and not simply a portion of it, as it does now, then we shall see better team work in the outfield. Let it be borne in mind that a well-trained professional nine contains three distinct teams, which work together as a whole—that is, the “battery,” or team of pitcher and catcher, the basemen’s team, and the outfield team. When nines are composed of men selected on the basis of this team principle, and not for their individual records, then we shall see better work done.

GENERAL HINTS ON FIELDING.

There is no habit fielders have that is more characteristic of school boys, or which leads to more unpleasantness and ill-feeling in a match, than that of finding fault with those who commit errors of play in the field. Every man in the field tries to do his best for his own credit’s sake, and if he fails, censure but adds to his chagrin without in the least improving his play; on the contrary, fault-finding is only calculated to make him play worse. In no game are the amenities of social life more necessary to a full enjoyment of the pastime than in base ball. Particularly acceptable are words of commendation for good play, and remarks calculated to remove the annoyance arising from errors in the field, to young ball players, and these form some of the strongest incentives to extra

exertion on their part, besides promoting kindly feelings on the field and during the game. We must enter our protest against the fault-finding, grumbling and snarling disposition which continually censures every failure to succeed, and barely tolerates any creditable effort that does not emanate from themselves, or in which they do not participate. Such men as these constitutional grumblers are the nuisances of a ball field, and destroy all the pleasure which would otherwise result from the game. Every manly player will keep silent when he sees an error committed, or if he makes any remark at all, will apologize for it in some way. Those who find fault and growl at errors of play are of the class who prefer to gratify their malice and ill-temper at the expense of the unlucky fielder who happens to "muff" a ball or two in a game.

Fielders should remember that the captain of the nine is alone the spokesman of the party and the commander of the field.

No outfielder should hold a ball a moment longer than it is necessary for him to handle it in throwing. In the infield, however, a ball can be sometimes held by the fielder with safety and advantage.

Never stand still in your position simply because the ball happens to go in another direction than the position you occupy, but always be on the move to aid the other fielders, or to back them up. Activity in the field and judgment in being prompt in support is the characteristic of a first-class fielder.

Play earnestly at all times, whether in an ordinary practice game or in a match. Get into the habit of doing your best on all occasions. It is invariably the mark of a vain and conceited ball player to walk on the field and play in a game as if he was conferring a favor by participating in the game; and players who play with an air of indifference as to the result of the game, or who become despondent when the odds are against them, are no players for a first-class nine.

Next to seeing a man field well, the most attractive thing is to see a player take things easy and good-naturedly. If you miss a fly ball, allow an important ball to pass you, or fail to handle a ball in time on a base, nothing is more boyish than to vent your ill-temper on some one who may have balked you in catching it, or thrown it to you badly. Control yourself and take it smilingly, or if you lack the moral courage to do that, keep your mouth shut at least. Your good-natured fellows who play their best all the time, and yet take everything bad or good with a good-natured smile, are as desirable as companions on a ball field as your growlers are to be detested.

When an error of play is committed do your best at once to remedy the evil by using your best efforts to get at the ball, either after missing it, letting it pass you, or failing to hold it. Some players after "muffing" a ball will walk after it like an ill-tempered, sulky ten-year-old.

THROWING TO FIRST BASE.

Throwing to first base to catch a runner napping was a frequent thing in the old days—now it is justly regarded as a play of only exceptional occurrence. Now and then there may be a pitcher who has a rare knack of dodging a runner out by a throw of this kind; but, as a general rule, no strategic pitcher will allow himself to be put out of pitching form by the efforts of a daring runner to induce him to throw to first base. The rule now is for the pitcher to trust to his strategic delivery to the bat to catch the runner at first base at fault, and this he does by causing the batsman to force him out at second. Under the new balk rule the pitcher finds it difficult to catch runners napping at first base unless he and the catcher have the signal business well arranged. In fact, the pitcher's efforts will in the main now be devoted to inducing the runner on first to go down to second, where sharp play between the pitcher and catcher will give better chances to throw out runners than than before.

RUNNING BASES ON FLY CATCHES.

We noticed in the play of the best base-running teams of 1884 that, when a long fly ball was hit to the outfield, runners on the bases held possession of their bases until the ball touched the hands of the fielder, and was either caught or dropped. Such runners never left their bases when the ball was hit,

but stayed on them, ready to run on the catch or the drop. Runners who blundered in their work would invariably run halfway down and stop and watch the ball, and, in case of a catch, they would thereby have an additional forty or fifty feet to run, besides gaining little or nothing if the ball was dropped. If at any time when they saw a high ball hit to the outfield, and under the impulse of the moment they left their base, they would promptly return to the base and wait until the catch was made.

TEAM WORK IN FIELDING.

We have before called attention to the marked difference between the field work of what we call a mere picked nine, viz., a nine composed of good players in their respective positions, but who are entirely new to each other's style of play—or, if not, are equally disqualified from doing team work by the uncongeniality of their dispositions, or from like causes—and a nine who work together as a whole with machine-like unity and effect, and who are a regular team in their trained method of playing into one another's hands for the benefit of the side. It is very evident that the importance of this difference is being realized more and more each season, and the result is that nines are being organized more on the sound basis of their doing team work than in accordance with the old plan of selecting mere picked nines.

BACKING UP.

Backing each other up is one great feature of the play of first-class basemen. Indeed, infield work can never be effectually attended to without it. Backing up is, in fact, an essential of successful fielding in every part of the diamond, but especially is it necessary in the infield. When the old method of fielding in vogue twenty years ago at Hoboken is remembered and contrasted with such fielding as was exhibited by the champion Providence team of 1884, one can readily see what a vast improvement has taken place, not only in fielding generally, but especially in base play. In the old times the only infielder who ever thought of backing up a companion was the short stop, and even he considered that his chief duty in this respect was to attend to the pitcher only. Base players of the olden time, with some rare exceptions, never thought of leaving their positions to field a ball, or to assist in fielding it, which went to any position save their own, hence base running was done in that time which yielded bases such as could not be run now in any of our nines. One special feature of the best team work in fielding during the season of 1884 was the effective play shown in "backing up" one another. This involved, of course, some extra field work, but the advantages accruing from it more than compensated for the additional labor. It worked in this way: The ball was pitched to the bat; it was hit to the infield in such a way as

to necessitate sharp handling in picking up the ball in time to get it to the base. Promptly on the hit being made, the pitcher and catcher ran behind the first base to stop the ball in case of a wide throw. Perhaps five times out of six this backing up was not actually needed; but it was there the important sixth time, with the result of two or three bases saved, if not a base runner put out. This system, carried out in all the positions, not only inspires confidence in fielders obliged to throw quickly, but it deters base running, and keeps runners from taking risks to reach bases they would otherwise attempt. Besides which, it gives confidence to the field by making their work more that of a trained team than of a mere picked nine.

Every base player should be active in "backing up" in the infield. The life of fielding is in the support afforded each other by the fielders who are located near together. A good fielder or base player never stands still; he is always on the move, ready for a spring to reach the ball, a stoop to pick it up, or a prompt movement to stop it, and he always has his eye upon the ball, especially when it is flying about inside the base lines, or from base to base. Poor base players seldom put themselves out of the way to field a ball unless it comes within their special district, but a good base player is on the alert to play at a moment's notice, on any base from which the player has gone after the ball. When bases are vacated, or foul or fly balls are struck, all the base play-

ers should handle the ball in the same way as the first base player does in putting out the batsman or running to first base.

CAPTAINING A TEAM.

“Who shall we have to captain the nine?” was the general query at the meetings of club-stockholders when the teams of 1884 were being organized; and the practical answer made to the question was one which had an important bearing on the welfare and success of each team during the season’s campaign. “Let the men select their own captain,” was one response; “The manager had better appoint the captain,” was another; while in a third case the leading official of the club took upon himself the responsibility of appointing the captain. The difficulty in the way of either one or the other of these plans succeeding was the fact that in too many cases there was no man in the team competent to fill the bill properly. If one of the players from among whom the captain had to be selected was found able to act as captain from his knowledge of the rules of the game and of points of play, he was also generally found to be deficient in other and equally essential qualifications for the position—that is, he either lacked the power to control his team by possessing their confidence and respect, or he had not the requisite coolness and nerve in trying positions in a match; or he needed that important essential, a control of temper. Hence

THE ART OF FIELDING.

the captaincy of teams, in many instances, fell hands unfitted for the duties devolving upon the position. To be able to captain a first-class professional nine properly is to do something scarcely one player out of fifty can do. Let us glance for a moment at the qualifications necessary in a first-rate captain of a nine, and then we can judge better whether the club-team about selecting a captain possesses any player competent to fill the office, even acceptably. No position in a professional nine requires such marked and peculiar abilities as that of a first-class captain. One of the most important requisites is thorough control of temper—without that, all the other essentials will be practically useless; for of what avail are familiarity with the points of play, or even a thorough knowledge of the rules of the game and of strategy, if the judgment is to be warped and marred by an uncurbed temper? Then, again, a model captain has a quiet way of doing his work, and a happy faculty of commanding obedience from his men, which tells with great effect; while an ordinary, commonplace captain simply uses his power in a way that only irritates and annoys his men, and draws from them but a sullen and reluctant obedience, at best. There is a vast difference in the quality of the field-work done by a team who only obey their captain because the penalty of disobedience is a forfeiture of salary, and that prompt assent to the captain's plans and opinions in the field-play of the team which respect and esteem for the officer in power alone exact. The possession

power to control players is something which puts a man to show his true disposition when least expects it; and just here, in this one thing, comes in a test as to whether this, that or the other man is fitted to act as captain. Look at a regiment of soldiers with its ten captains, and note the difference in the actions of the companies under their command. While all are bound by army rules to a certain strict obedience to the commands of their captain, how differently are these commands obeyed! With one captain how prompt to each beck and call is every man in the ranks, while with another nothing but the letter of the law is obeyed. Just so is it in the captaincy of professional nines; and hence it is that so much importance is attached to the selection of the captain. Of course, when you have a manager who, to a certain extent, practically performs many of the duties of field-captain, the nominal captain becomes the mere vehicle for carrying out the behests of the man really at the head. But in cases where the manager is not sufficiently posted to interfere with the field-work in a match, then the selection of the captain becomes a very important matter.

A captain of a professional nine the moment he accepts the responsibility of the position should make all realize the fact that he alone is captain, and not allow himself to be dictated to or interfered with either by influential members, ambitious directors, or officious presidents. To listen to their advice or sug-

gestions is one thing. But to be requested to do this or that against his own convictions is altogether a different thing.

There is another thing to be taken into consideration in selecting the team captain, and that is to let your choice be guided by the ability a certain player possesses for ruling his men by showing that he takes an interest in their personal welfare; to that extent, in fact, that it is a pleasure to him to see them excel in their work. It is only this that will elicit that willing obedience which yields the best returns. It should be borne in mind that no player can captain a nine without giving umbrage to his men in some way or other; the exigencies of the game involve the commission of errors of one kind or another to an extent that will give rise to censure, perhaps unjust rebuke, too, at times; but when this censure comes from a captain who is known to do his best for his men, it only temporarily annoys, and frequently is silently passed by. Not so when an arbitrary, hot-tempered captain has control; then the natural result is an effort of his men to "get square with him," even at the cost of some point in the game being lost; and with this follows that feeling of ill-will and discord which is death alike to discipline and effective play.

One thing is very essential to look out for in organizing a team and selecting a captain, and that is to see that there be no rivals for the office in the ranks. In other words, avoid having ex-captains or ex-managers in your team; or if this cannot be avoided,

see to it that no loop-hole be left for the ambitious hopes of preferment by the ex-captain or manager in the team who has been obliged to accept a subordinate position. Another important matter for consideration is that the player selected for captain should possess determination of character. An effective captain must know no such word as vacillation. The captain who hesitates is lost. Let him be a man who, after once having decided, abides by that decision; not, of course, with that mule-like obstinacy which admits of no advice or instruction, but with that prompt determination which marks a man of strong character.

Still one more point, and we have done with our model captain. While it is, of course, proper that the captain should be held to a due responsibility for the conduct of his men on the field—the club-manager should attend to them off the field—this should only be done when he is given full power to act, and not when he is made only nominally captain through the interference of the manager, or some club official, or stockholder, who, by his petting of one or more men of the team, practically nullifies the orders of the captain. To place a man in command of a nine and then allow this, that or the other club official to instruct players what to do in the field, or to insist upon the men being placed or appointed to their respective positions in opposition to the captain's wishes, at the same time holding the captain responsible for the faulty play of so badly governed a team, is a gross

act of injustice. The fact is, no club team can be successfully organized or properly run while the club board of directors or any other club officials are allowed to interfere outside the line of their special duties. The club manager finds his duties confined to the disbursement of expenses, the collection of receipts, and the looking-after the general welfare of the team, and, in fact, "running the team" outside of the field, while the captain runs the team on the field, and there only. Now, it will be readily seen that the requisites alluded to above are such as but few players possess.

The captain of a nine should give all his instructions to players quietly, and especially should reprimands be avoided on the field before the public. No player likes censure at any time, but he will bear it patiently when deserved, and profit by it, too, but not unless it is done quietly, and to himself. Captains should especially bear in mind the important fact that fielding errors carry with them their own punishment, and that openly censuring a man for muffing a ball or failing to throw accurately is the very worst plan for preventing its repetition. A fielder will do his best for his own sake, and no amount of censure will improve him if he does not. If a fielder errs in a point of play, or in his interpretation of a rule, that is different; but if he muffs a ball, fails to catch it, or throws wildly, such errors had best be passed by in silence, or censure be kept back until the player can be rebuked in private.

In choosing a captain, avoid both the man who has no self-control, is quick of temper, dictatorial in his manner, and too fond of having this and that done simply because it is his desire that it should be so; and also the man who is easily influenced, possesses no determination of character, is afraid of censure, and who is too desirous of pleasing friends to act for the best interests of his club.

Some men command the best services of those who are under their control by a happy faculty of combining a kindly interest and pleasant way in dealing with subordinates, with a determination of character which admits of no disobedience when a request is earnestly made. To do this is an essential in the qualifications of the captain of a nine. Your arbitrary martinets command only a discontented obedience from their men; there is no heart-service in their work, and this latter is especially necessary in a well-organized nine. To get a professional nine into good working condition, so as to develop all the strong points of the individual players, and at the same time train them up to work as a harmonious whole, is a task requiring sound judgment and that determined spirit which overcomes all obstacles by the mere strength of steady perseverance in the right cause.

THE ART OF BASE RUNNING.

Each season's experience only shows more and more the fact that good base running is one of the

most important essentials of success in winning games. Effective pitching is a great aid to success, so is skillful batting; but it is equally as necessary to a successful issue of a contest after a base has been obtained by a good hit, that other bases should be secured by skillful running of bases. It is a difficult task to get to first base safely in the face of the effectual fire from a first-class club "battery," backed up by good support in the field; but it is still more difficult when the base is safely reached, to secure the other three bases. The fact is, a greater degree of intelligence is required in the player who would excel in base running than is needed either in fielding or in batting. Any soft-brained heavy weight can occasionally hit a ball for a home run, but it requires a shrewd, intelligent player, with his wits about him, to make a successful base runner. Indeed, base running is the most difficult work a player has to do in the game. To cover infield positions properly, a degree of intelligence in the players is required which the majority do not as a general rule possess; but to excel in base running such mental qualifications are required as only a small minority are found to possess. Presence of mind, prompt action on the spur of the moment; quickness of perception, and coolness and nerve are among the requisites of a successful base runner. Players habitually accustomed to hesitate to do this, that or the other, in attending to the varied points of a game, can never become good base runners. There is so little time allowed to judge of the

situation that prompt action becomes a necessity with the base runner. He must "hurry up" all the time. Then, too, he must be daring in taking risks, while at the same time avoiding recklessness in his running. Though fast running is an important aid in base running, a fast runner who lacks judgment, coolness, and, in fact, "headwork" in his running, will not equal a poor runner who possesses the nerve and intelligence required for the work. The great point in the art of base running is to know when to start, and to start promptly when the favorable opportunity is offered. One difficulty a base runner, trying to steal to second, invariably encounters, is his having to watch either the pitcher or catcher closely. He cannot watch both carefully, and therefore he must make his selection as to which player he will look after. If the catcher is an accurate and swift thrower to the bases, he is the man to be attended to. But if the pitcher is one who has a method of delivery which includes a number of special movements which occupy more than the ordinary time in delivering the ball, then he is the man to watch, for he will surely afford the runner the required opportunity to steal a base or to secure a balk, if the runner only plays his part properly. A sharp base runner can bother a pitcher exceedingly by skillful dodging. It requires no small amount of nerve and coolness for a pitcher to watch a runner closely, and yet to play the strategical points of his pitching with full effect.

For many years past, season after season, have we

endeavored to impress upon the professional fraternity the importance of skillful base running in winning matches, as well as to show them the many fine points that were capable of being developed in first class base running. Judging from the fact that the finest base running ever witnessed in the professional arena was exhibited during the season of 1884, the indications are that the lessons that have been taught have at last yielded fruit. With all the skill shown last season in this special department of the game, there are yet some things to be learned. Experience is frequently a good teacher, but her lessons are costly at times. There are players, however, who will not derive their knowledge of how to play the points of the game well from any other source, and hence it is that years have been required to develop a degree of skill in base play and base running which might otherwise have been attained in a single season or two.

POINTS OF PLAY IN BASE RUNNING.

The moment a batsman hits a ball he should run for first base with all his speed. He has no business to stop and see if the ball will be caught and fielded; he should act at all times as if a chance was offered to reach first, and go for that base as fast as he can. Many a base has been lost by the refusal of the batsman to run because he thought the hit ball would surely be caught, or be easily fielded to first base in time. He should never take either event as some-

thing granted, but expect errors to aid him and act accordingly.

In running down to second, when a runner is on third base, he should run in such a way as to invite a throw to second to cut him off, and then try to get the attention of the infielders fixed on his own movements so as to give the runner on third base a chance to get home. Of course in playing this point it must be done only when there is but one man out, unless the situation is such as to make a single run decisive in ending the contest, in which case his play will be to delay the putting out of himself between first and second until the runner on third crosses the home plate, or otherwise the run will not count.

In running to first base the runner should be careful to avoid running in front of the base line, because that alone puts him out. It is always safe, too, to turn to the right after overrunning first base, unless the hit is very sure for more than one base, as he cannot profit by the rule of exemption from being put out after overrunning the base if he turns to the left.

In running bases on fly balls caught in the outfield, the moment such high ball is hit, and there is any chance of its being caught, he should hold the base he occupies, and in such a way as to be ready to start quickly for the next base the moment the ball is caught, and not run half way down first, only to have to return and touch the base he left after the ball is caught, before he can run to the next base.

When two men are out, and a runner is on third,

and the batted ball is being fielded to cut off a runner between first and second—not forced off—the runner on third should make the best time possible in running home, so as to cross the plate before the other runner is put out, otherwise his run will not count.

THE BASE RUNNING RULES.

RULE 52. *The Batsman becomes a Base Runner.*

(1) Instantly after he makes a Fair Hit.

(2) Instantly after six Balls have been called by the Umpire.

(3) Instantly after three Strikes have been declared by the Umpire.

(4) Instantly after two "Foul Balls" have been declared by the Umpire.

RULE 53. *The Base Runner must touch each Base in regular order, viz: First, Second, Third and Home Bases, and when obliged to return, must do so on the run, and must retouch the base or bases in reverse order. He shall only be considered as holding a base after touching it, and shall then be entitled to hold such base until he has legally touched the next base in order; or has been legally forced to vacate it for a succeeding Base Runner.*

RULE 54. *The Base Runner shall be entitled, without being put out, to take one Base, provided he do so on the run, in the following cases:*

(1) If, while he was Batsman, the Umpire called six Balls.

(2) If the Umpire awards a succeeding Batsman a base on six Balls and the Base Runner is thereby forced to vacate the base held by him.

(3) If the Umpire calls a Balk.

(4) If the Umpire calls two "Foul Balks."

(5) If a ball delivered by the Pitcher pass the Catcher and touch any fence or building within ninety feet of the Home Base.

(6) If he be prevented from making a base by the obstruction of an adversary.

(7) If a Fielder stop or catch a batted ball with his hat or any part of his dress.

RULE 55. *The Base Runner shall return to his Base, and shall be entitled to so return without being put out, provided he does so on the run.*

(1) If the Umpire declares a Foul Hit, and the ball be not legally caught by a Fielder.

(2) If the Umpire declares a Foul Strike.

(3) If the Umpire declares a Dead Ball, unless it be also the sixth Unfair Ball, and he be thereby forced to take the next base, as provided in Rule 54 (2).

RULE 56. *The Base Runner shall not have a substitute run for him.*

RULE 57. *The Base Runner is out:*

(1) If, after three strikes have been declared against him while Batsman, and the Catcher fails to catch the third-strike ball, he plainly attempts to hinder the Catcher from fielding the ball.

(2) If, having made a Fair Hit while Batsman, such fair hit ball be momentarily held by a Fielder, before touching the ground or any object other than a Fielder: *Provided*, It be not caught in a Fielder's hat or cap.

(3) If, when the Umpire has declared three Strikes on him while Batsman, the third-strike ball be momentarily held by a Fielder before touching the ground: *Provided*, It be not caught in a Fielder's hat or cap, or touch some other object than a Fielder before being caught.

(4) If, after three Strikes or a Fair Hit, he be touched with the ball in the hand of a Fielder before such Base Runner touches First Base.

(5) If, after three Strikes or a Fair Hit the ball be securely held by a Fielder, while touching First Base with any part of his person, before such Base Runner touches First Base.

(6) If, in running the last half of the distance from Home Base to First Base, he runs outside the Three Feet Lines, as defined in Rule 11, *except* that he must do so if necessary to avoid a Fielder attempting to field a batted ball, and in such case shall not be declared out.

(7) If, in running from First to Second Base, from Second to Third Base, or from Third to Home Base, he runs more than three feet from a direct line between such bases to avoid being touched by the ball in the hands of a Fielder; but in case a Fielder be occupying the Base Runner's proper path, attempting to

field a batted ball, then the Base Runner shall run out of the path and behind said Fielder, and shall not be declared out for so doing.

(8) If he fails to avoid a Fielder attempting to field a batted ball, in the manner prescribed in (6) and (7) of this Rule, or if he, in any way, obstructs a Fielder attempting to field a batted ball: *Provided*, That if two or more Fielders attempt to field a batted ball, and the Base Runner comes in contact with one or more of them, the Umpire shall determine which Fielder is entitled to the benefit of this Rule, and shall not decide the Base Runner out for coming in contact with any other Fielder.

(9) If, at any time while the ball is in play, he be touched by the ball in the hands of a Fielder, unless some part of his person is touching a base he is entitled to occupy, provided the ball be held by the Fielder after touching him; *but (exception as to First Base)*, in running to First Base, he may overrun said base without being put out for being off said base, after first touching it, provided he returns at once and retouches the base, after which he may be put out as at any other base. If, in overrunning First Base, he also attempts to run to Second Base, he shall forfeit such exemption from being put out.

(10) If, when a Fair or Foul Hit ball is legally caught by a Fielder, such ball is legally held by a Fielder on the base occupied by the Base Runner when such ball was struck (or the Base Runner be touched with the ball in the hands of a

Fielder), before he retouches said base after such Fair or Foul Hit ball was so caught. *Provided*, That the Base Runner shall not be out in such case, if, after the ball was legally caught as above, it be delivered to the bat by the Pitcher before the Fielder holds it on said base, or touches the Base Runner with it.

(11) If, when a Batsman becomes a Base Runner (*except as provided in Rule 54*), the First Base, or the First and Second Bases, or the First, Second and Third Bases, be occupied, any Base Runner so occupying a Base shall cease to be entitled to hold it, until any following Base Runner is put out, and may be put out at the next base or by being touched by the ball in the hands of a Fielder in the same manner as in running to First Base, at any time before any following Base Runner is put out.

(12) If a Fair Hit ball strike him, he shall be declared out and in such case no base shall be run unless forced, and no run be scored.

(13) If when running to a base or forced to return to a base, he fail to touch the intervening base or bases, if any, in the order prescribed in Rule 53, he may be put out at the base he fails to touch, or by being touched by the ball in the hand of a Fielder, in the same manner as in running to First Base. *Provided*, That he shall not be declared out unless the Captain of the fielding side claim such decision before the ball is delivered to the bat by the Pitcher.

(14) If, when the Umpire calls "Play" after any

suspension of a game, he fails to return to and touch the base he occupied when "Time" was called before touching the next base.

RULE 58. *The Umpire shall declare the Batsman or Base Runner out, without waiting for an appeal for such decision, in all cases where such player is put out in accordance with these rules, except, as provided in Rule 57, (10), (13) and (14).*

RULE 59. *In case of a Foul Strike, Foul Hit not legally caught flying, Bead Ball, or Base Runner put out for being struck by a fair hit ball, the ball shall not be considered in play until it is held by the Pitcher standing in his position.*

RULE 60. *Whenever a Block occurs, the Umpire shall declare it, and Base Runners may run the bases without being put out, until after the ball has been returned to and held by the Pitcher standing in his position.*

RULE 61. *One Run shall be scored every time a Base Runner, after having legally touched the first three bases, shall touch the Home Base before three men are put out. If the third man is forced out, or is put out before reaching First Base, a run shall not be scored.*

COMPLETE UNIFORMS.

Our facilities for manufacturing Base Ball, Cricket, Lawn Tennis, and all kinds of athletic uniforms are the very best. This department is under the supervision of a practical tailor and shirt cutter, who is an expert in designing and cutting base ball and athletic uniforms. We would urge clubs not to make the mistake of intrusting the making of their uniforms to local dealers, whose experience in this kind of work is necessarily small, but send direct to us, and get a good, cheap, and satisfactory outfit. We make complete base ball uniforms at prices ranging from \$5.00 to \$30.00 per man. Measurement blanks sent free upon application. Send ten cents for samples of flannel and belt webbing, and receive a handsome engraved fashion plate, showing the different styles and prices. At the following very low prices it is economy to order complete uniforms:

Prices of Complete Uniforms.

- No. 0. League Club outfit consisting of Pants and Shirt of extra heavy flannel, made expressly for our trade. Extra quality Stockings, Cap, Belt, Chicago Club Shoe, Steel Shoe Plates, and Necktie to match trimmings. Price complete, each.....\$15.00
- No. 1. Outfit, first quality twilled flannel for Pants and Shirts, first quality Cap, best English Web Belt, first quality Stockings, Amateur Shoe, Steel Shoe Plates. Price complete, each..... 11.00
- No. 2. Outfit, second quality twilled flannel (same as most dealers put into their first quality uniform), second quality Cap, English Web Belt, second quality Stockings, Amateur Shoes, malleable iron Shoe Plates. Price complete, each..... 9.00
- No. 3. Outfit, third quality flannel, third quality Cap, American Web Belt, third quality Stockings, Amateur Shoes, malleable iron Shoe Plates. Price complete, each..... 7.00
- No. 4. Boy's uniform, fourth quality material, consisting of Shirt, Pants, Cap, Belt, Shoes and Shoe Plates complete, each..... 5.00

Measurement blanks and Lithographic Fashion Plate showing different styles of uniforms, furnished upon application.

A. G. SPALDING & BROS.,

108 Madison Street,
CHICAGO.

241 Broadway,
NEW YORK.

BASE BALL SHIRTS.



FANCY SHIELD SHIRT.



LACED SHIRT FRONT.

- No.
- | | | | |
|----|---|--------|---------|
| 0. | Extra quality Shirt, of extra heavy flannel, made expressly for our League Club trade, Each. Per Doz. | | |
| | any style, White, Blue or Gray..... | \$5 00 | \$54 00 |
| 1. | First quality twilled flannel, White, Blue or Red | 4 00 | 42 00 |
| 2. | Second quality twilled flannel, White, Blue or Gray..... | 3 25 | 36 00 |
| 3. | Third quality, Shaker flannel, White only.... | 2 25 | 24 00 |
| 4. | Boys' size only, of fourth quality..... | 1 50 | 18 00 |
- TO MEASURE FOR SHIRT.—Size Collar worn. Length of Sleeve, bent, from center of back. Size around Chest. Length of Yoke from shoulder to shoulder.

BASE BALL PANTS.



- | No. | | Each. | Dozen. |
|-----|--|--------|---------|
| 0. | Extra quality flannel Pants, White, Blue or Gray..... | \$5 00 | \$54 00 |
| 1. | First quality twilled flannel, White, Blue or Red..... | 4 00 | 42 00 |
| 2. | Second quality twilled flannel, White, Blue or Gray..... | 3 25 | 36 00 |
| 3. | Third quality, Shaker flannel, White only..... | 2 25 | 24 00 |

TO MEASURE FOR PANTS.—Size around waist. Length of outside seam from waist to eight inches below the knee (for full length pants measure to the foot). Length of inside seam. Size around hips.

A. G. SPALDING & BROS.,

108 Madison Street,
CHICAGO.

241 Broadway,
NEW YORK.

Base Ball Shoes.

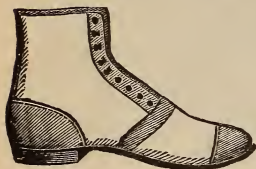


No. 1.



No. 2.

- No. 1. **League Club Shoe.** Same as used by League Clubs. Made Horsehide in the best manner. Price per pair..... \$6.00
 No. 2. **Chicago Club Shoe.** Extra quality canvas, foxed with French calf. The Standard Screw Fastener is used. Price per pair. 4.00



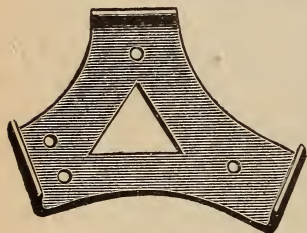
No. 3.



No. 4.

- No. 3. **Amateur, or Practice Shoe.** Good quality canvas, strap over instep. Price per pair..... \$2 00
 No. 3X. **Amateur Base Ball Shoe for Boys.** Second quality canvas. Price per pair..... 1 50
 No. 4. **Oxford Tie Base Ball Shoe.** Low cut, canvas. Price per pair 2 00

SPALDING'S SHOE PLATES.



Our new design League Steel Shoe Plate has become the favorite plate among League players during the past season, and we have this year added it to our regular line of shoe plates. It is made by hand of the best quality English steel, and so tempered that it will not bend or break. The peculiar shape of the plate is shown in the adjoining cut. The majority of League players use this plate on the toe, and our No. 1, or Professional Plate, on the heel. Each pair of plates—right and left—are put up with screws.



- | | Per Pair. | Per Doz. |
|---|-----------|----------|
| No. 0. Spalding's League Shoe Plate, | \$ 50 | \$5 00 |
| No. 1. Spalding's Professional Shoe Plate, as shown in the adjoining cut, is made of first quality steel. It is lighter and smaller than the No. 0 plate, but will render good service. Each pair put up with screws, complete..... | 25 | 2 50 |
| No. 2. Spalding's Malleable Iron Shoe Plate, light and durable, with screws..... | 15 | 1 50 |

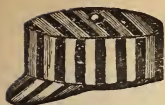
Any of the above Shoe Plates mailed upon receipt of price. Address

A. G. SPALDING & BROS.,

108 Madison Street,
CHICAGO.

241 Broadway,
NEW YORK.

BASE BALL CAPS AND HATS.



No. 1



No. 3.



No. 7.



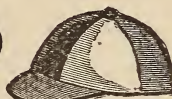
No. 5.



No. 11



No. 13.



No. 19.



No. 21.

	1st. qual.	2d qual.	3d qual.
No. 1. League Parti-colored Cap.....	\$12 00
No. 3. Base Ball Hat, any color.....	18 00	15 00
No. 5. Base Ball Cap, Chicago style, any color, with or without stripes.....	9 00
No. 7. Base Ball Cap, Boston shape, without star, any colors.....	9 00	7 50	6 00
No. 7. Ditto, all white only.....	9 00	7 50	6 00
No. 11. Base Ball Cap, Jockey shape, any color..	9 00	7 50	6 00
No. 11. Ditto, all white only.....	9 00	7 50	6 00
No. 13. Base Ball Cap, Boston shape, with star..	9 00	7 50	6 00
No. 19. Base Ball Skull Cap, any color.....	9 00	7 50	6 00
No. 19. Ditto, white only.....	9 00	7 50	6 00
No. 21. College Base Ball Cap, any color.....	9 00	7 50	6 00
No. 21. Ditto, white only.....	9 00	7 50	6 00

Boys' Flannel Caps, per dozen.....\$4 00

" Cotton Caps, Red, White, or Blue..... 3 00

In addition to the styles above mentioned, we are prepared to make any style of Cap known, and will furnish at prices corresponding to above.

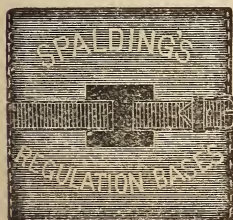
BAT BAGS.



No. o. League Club Bat Bag, made of sole leather, with name outside, to hold two dozen bats. Each.....\$15 00

No. 1. Canvas Bat Bag, leather ends, to hold two dozen bats.....	\$5 00
No. 2. Canvas Bat Bag, leather ends, to hold one dozen bats.....	4 00
No. 01. Spalding's new design, individual, sole leather Bat Bag for two bats, as used by the players of the Chicago club....each,	4 00
No. 02. Same size and style as above, made of strong canvas....	1 50

BASES.



No. o. League Club Bases, made of extra canvas, stuffed and quilted complete, with straps and spikes, without home plate....Per set of three	\$7 50
No. 1. Canvas Bases, with straps and spikes, complete without home plate.....	5 00
Marble Home plate.....	3 00
Iron " ".....	1 00

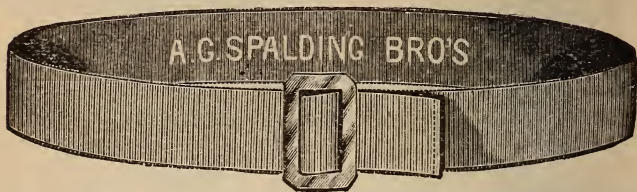
A. G. SPALDING & BROS.,

108 Madison Street,
CHICAGO.

241 Broadway,
NEW YORK.

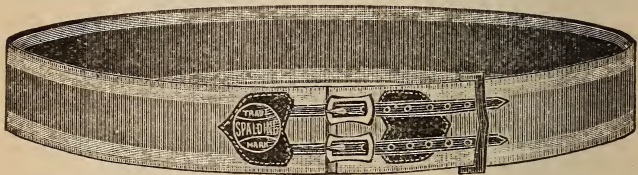
SPALDING'S BASE BALL BELTS—Worsted Web Belts.

Our No. 0, or League Club Belt is made of best Worsted Webbing, 2½ inches wide, mounted in best manner, with large nickel plated buckle, the finest belt made. Our No. 1 belt is made of same webbing, leather mounted. We use the following colors of webbing. In ordering, please state the color wanted, and size around waist.



Style A.	Red.	Style D.	Brown.	Style G.	Red, White	Edge.
" B.	Blue.	" E.	Black.	" H.	Blue,	"
" C.	Navy Blue.	" F.	White.			

No. o.	League Club Belt, of any of the above colors, nickel plated buckle as shown in above cut.	Per Dozen	\$6.00
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No. 1. Worsted Web Belt, same colors as above, mounted in leather, with two broad straps and buckles as shown in above cut.

Per doz.....	\$4.50
--------------	--------

SPALDING'S COTTON WEB BELTS.

Our Cotton Web Belts are made of best quality Cotton Webbing, in the following fast colors. In ordering please state color, and size around waist.

Style L.	Red.	Style O.	Blue, White Edge.	Style R.	Red and White, Narrow Stripes.
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" M. Blue.

" P. Red, White
and Blue.

" S. Blue and White,
Narrow Stripe.

“ N. Red, White
Edge. “ Q. White. “ T. Yellow & Black,
Wide Stripe.

No. 3. Cotton Web Belts, any of above colors, large patent nickel-plated buckle. Per dozen.....

No. 4. Cotton Web, Leather Mounted.....	Per doz.	\$2.50
---	----------	--------

SPALDING'S BASE BALL STOCKINGS. PER DOZ.

No. o. League Regulation, made of the finest worsted yarn. The following colors can be obtained: White, Light Blue, Navy Blue, Scarlet, Gray, Green, Old Gold, Brown.....\$18.00

No. 1.	Fine Quality Woolen Stockings, Scarlet, Blue or Brown....	12.00
--------	---	-------

No. 2.	Good	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	9.00
No. 3.	Second	"	"	"	"	"	or Blue with White	"	

No. 3. Second " " " " or Blue, with White or drab cotton feet.....	6.00
---	------

A. G. SPALDING & BROS.,

108 Madison Street,
CHICAGO.

241 Broadway,
NEW YORK.

Spalding's Trade-Marked Catcher's Mask.



The first Catcher's Mask brought out in 1875, was a very heavy, clumsy affair, and it was not until we invented our open-eyed mask in 1877 that it came into general use. Now it would be considered unsafe and even dangerous for a catcher to face the swift underhand throwing of the present day unless protected by a reliable mask. The increased demand for these goods has brought manufacturers into the field who, having no reputation to sustain, have vied with each other to see how *cheap* they could make a so-

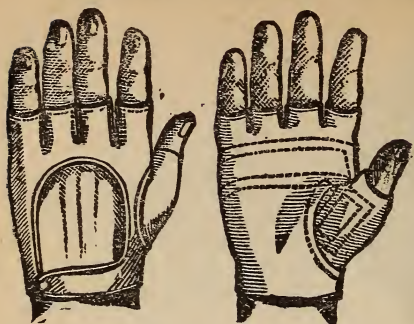
called mask, and in consequence have ignored the essential qualification, *strength*. A cheaply made, inferior quality of mask is much worse than no protection at all, for a broken wire or one that will not stand the force of the ball without caving in, is liable to disfigure a player for life. We would warn catchers not to trust their faces behind one of these *cheap* made masks. Our trade-marked masks are made of the very best hard wire, plated to prevent rusting, and well trimmed, and every one is a thorough face protector. We shall make them in three grades as described below, and with our increased facilities for manufacturing, are enabled to improve the quality, and at the same time reduce the price.

Beware of counterfeits. *None genuine without our Trade Mark stamped on each Mask.*

- | | | |
|--------|--|--------|
| No. 0. | SPALDING'S SPECIAL LEAGUE MASK, used by | Each. |
| | all the leading professional catchers, extra heavy wire, well padded with goat hair and the padding faced with the best imported dogskin, which is impervious to perspiration and retains its pliability and softness..... | \$3 00 |
| No. 2. | SPALDING'S AMATEUR MASK, made the same size and general style as the League Mask, but with lighter wire and faced with leather, (we guarantee this mask to be superior to so-called professional Masks sold by other manufacturers)..... | 2 00 |
| No. 3. | SPALDING'S BOY'S MASK, similar to the Amateur Mask, only made smaller to fit a boy's face..... | 1 75 |

☞ Any of these Masks mailed postpaid on receipt of price.

Spalding's Trade-Marked Catcher's Gloves.



After considerable expense and many experiments we have finally perfected a Catcher's Glove that meets with general favor from professional catchers.

The old style of open backed gloves introduced by us several years ago is still adhered to, but the quality of material and workmanship has been materially

improved, until now we can lay claim to having the best line of catcher's gloves on the market. These gloves do not interfere with throwing, can be easily put on and taken off, and no player subject to sore hands should be without a pair of these gloves. We make these gloves in four different grades, as follows:

	Price per Pair.
No. 00. SPALDING'S FULL LEFT-HAND CATCHER'S GLOVES, made of extra heavy Indian tanned buck, with full left-hand, usual style right hand, open backs and well padded, fully warranted. Best catcher's glove made.....	\$3 50
No. 0. SPALDING'S LEAGUE CLUB CATCHER'S GLOVES, made of extra heavy Indian tanned buck, and carefully selected with special reference to the hard service required of them, open back, well padded, and fully warranted.....	2 50
No. 1. SPALDING'S PROFESSIONAL GLOVES, made of Indian tanned buckskin, open back, well padded, but not quite as heavy material as the No. 0	2 00
No. 2. SPALDING'S AMATEUR GLOVES, made of lighter buckskin, open back, well padded and adapted for amateur players	1 50
No. 3. SPALDING'S PRACTICE GLOVES, made of light material, open back, well padded.....	1 00
No. 4. SPALDING'S BOY'S GLOVES, open back, well padded, and made only in boy's sizes.....	1 00

Any of the above Gloves mailed postpaid on receipt of price. In ordering, please give size of ordinary dress gloves usually worn.

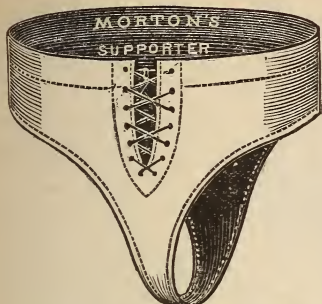
A. G. SPALDING & BROS.,

108 Madison Street,
CHICAGO.

241 Broadway,
NEW YORK.

MORTON'S PERFECT SUPPORTER.

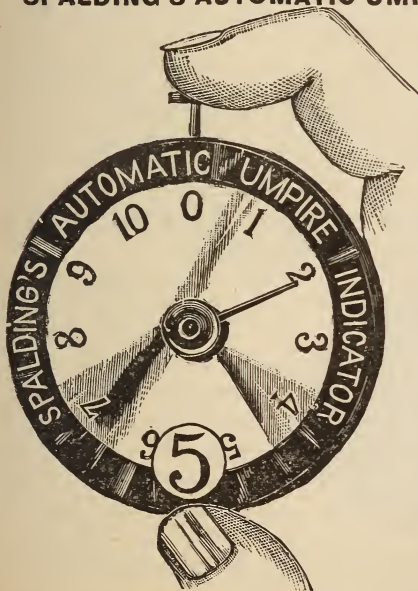
The best fitting, most comfortable and effective supporter yet devised. Made of best quality canton flannel, with laced front, cool and pleasant to wear. Prices each, 75 cents.



GUTH'S Improved Supporter,

Well known to Professional Ball Players. Price, Chamois Skin, \$1.00.

SPALDING'S AUTOMATIC UMPIRE INDICATOR.



As the name implies, this little apparatus is intended for umpires of base ball matches, and is the best thing of the kind ever brought out; in fact, it is the only really practical umpire's indicator, or guide, on the market. The illustration, which represents the exact size of the indicator, gives a good idea of its construction and mode of handling. By touching the spring at the top of the indicator the number of balls called from 1 to 6 or 7 are registered, and so remain until the spring is touched again. The index hand upon the dial serves to record the number of strikes on the batter. It works automatically, and can be carried in the palm of the hand unobserved by the spectators. It is recommended and is in general use by all the prominent League and Association umpires. It is neatly packed in a paste-board box, and will be mailed

ed to any address upon receipt of price.

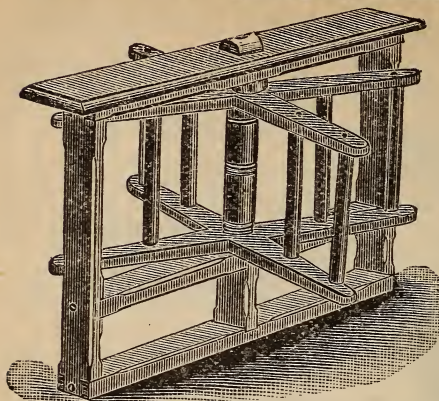
Price, 50 Cents.

A. G. SPALDING & BROS.,

108 Madison Street,
CHICAGO.

241 Broadway,
NEW YORK.

BRIGHT'S AUTOMATIC REGISTERING TURN STILE.



Is acknowledged to be the most reliable, durable and simple Turn Stile made. It is designed especially for Base Ball and Fair Grounds, Expositions, etc., and is an almost indispensable assistant in making a correct division of receipts and avoiding all possibility of the gate-keeper's appropriating any portion of them, by accurately counting and registering each person passing through it.

The movement registers from 1 to 10,000, and can easily and almost instantly be reversed to zero by any person having the key, without the

necessity of removing from the Stile to which it is securely attached and locked. It is provided with all necessary stops, etc., to prevent its getting out of order through being handled by meddlesome persons, and is shipped complete and in readiness to be placed beside a doorway or other suitable entrance to inclosure, either permanent or temporary, and used without delay.

They have been in use during the past season by the Cleveland and Philadelphia League Clubs and by all of the Clubs of the N. W. League, without an instance of failure or dissatisfaction, but have since been greatly improved by the addition of several valuable features, making it unquestionably the best adapted and most durable Turn Stile in the market.

Orders from Base Ball Clubs should be sent in as early as possible, insuring their being filled before the beginning of the season.

Price complete.....\$50 00

GRAND STAND CUSHIONS FOR BASE BALL GROUNDS.



The Chicago Club have for several seasons furnished cushions to their patrons at a nominal rental of 5 cents per game. It is a feature highly appreciated by base ball spectators. We are now manufacturing these cushions, and can supply them to clubs at 50 cents each. Special prices made when ordered in hundred lots.

A. G. SPALDING & BROS.,

108 Madison Street,
CHICAGO.

241 Broadway,
NEW YORK.

SPALDING'S TRADE-MARKED BATS.

These celebrated bats were first introduced in 1877, and they have gradually grown into popularity, until now they are used almost exclusively by all prominent professional and amateur players. All the timber used in these bats is allowed to season from one to two years in the sun before being made up, and the result is we are enabled to make much lighter and stronger bats than where the timber is hastily "kiln-dried," as done by nearly all manufacturers of *cheap* goods. Each bat is turned by hand, after the most approved and varied models, and if found to answer the requirements as to weight, size, length, etc., the *trade-mark* is stamped on each bat to insure its genuineness. We point with much pride to the handsome testimonials given these bats by the leading batters of the country, as shown by their universal and continued use.

PRICES.

SPALDING'S TRADE MARKED BATS.

		Each.	To Clubs. Per doz.
No. 00.	Spalding's 2d Growth Ash, Black Band League Bat, Patent Granulated Handle.....	75c	\$8 0
" 0.	Spalding's 2d Growth Ash, Black Band, League Bat, Plain Handle	75c	7 50
" 1.	Spalding's Trade Marked Ash Bat.....	40c	4 00
" 2.	" " " Cherry Bat..	40c	4 00
" 3.	" " " Bass " ..	30c	3 50
" 4.	" " " Willow " ..	50c	5 00
" 1B.	" Boy's " " Ash " ..	30c	3 00
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